



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

DEC 15 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR GEN (RET) JOHN R. DAILEY, USMC
MR. NORMAN R. AUGUSTINE
GEN (RET) JAMES B. DAVIS, USAF

SUBJECT: Review of the V-22 Program

On December 11, 2000, an MV-22 crashed, killing all 4 Marines on board. The cause of the accident is unknown at this time. The V-22 has experienced three other accidents since 1991. The Marine Corps suspended flight operations and requested a delay of the full-rate production decision until the cause of the most recent accident is fully understood.

The V-22 aircraft are intended to meet the Marine Corps amphibious and vertical assault mission, the Navy strike rescue mission, and the special operations needs of the Air Force and Special Operations Command (SOCOM). Variants of these aircraft will replace or supplement a range of aging platforms. As a result, the V-22 will make up a sizable component of our modernization program and warfighting capability.

The V-22's accident history and other testing issues necessitate that we undertake an independent, high level review of the program. You are hereby appointed to conduct this review, to include safety of the aircraft, and to recommend any proposed corrective actions. You should complete your review and report to the Secretary of Defense as soon as possible. Specifically, you should address the following factors, as they affect safety and combat effectiveness:

- ⇒ Training
- ⇒ Engineering and design
- ⇒ Production and quality control
- ⇒ Suitability to satisfy operational requirements
- ⇒ Performance and safety of flight



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By copies of this memorandum, I request the Secretaries of the Military Departments, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Director, Administration and Management, to provide full cooperation and assistance to the panel as it carries out its review. I have asked General Dailey to serve as the Chair of the group. The Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics will provide an executive secretary for the panel.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Dailey", with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc: Secretary of the Army
Secretary of the Navy
Secretary of the Air Force
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director, Administration and Management